

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Website Debuts New Look on Monday

by Holly Dentner

Using a fresh new look and more uniform design, MoDOT will unveil its new website on Mon., March 25. The new site features a more modern horizontal navigation bar, a prominent search bar, and reflects our efforts to provide a functional and valuable resource for our customers.

The site also includes a new Traveler Information “drop down” menu that houses the most valuable links for motorists, and a more uniform look for the district pages so users will find consistent information no matter what district page they visit.

The work to update the site was a major undertaking, but it was all done in-house.

“The redesign is a priority because our website serves as our ‘shop window’ to the world,” said Matt Hiebert, MoDOT customer relations manager. “With over 16,000 pages within the site to review, it’s been a big project.”

MoDOT’s website address and all bookmarks will remain the same.



MoDOT Launches Pothole Patrol

by Holly Dentner



Even during a mild winter, it can sometimes seem like the snow and cold weather will never end. But eventually, the grass turns green and the temperatures warm up. When they do, it’s a welcome sight for many.

At MoDOT, spring means crews turn their attention to the potholes that “spring” forth as temperatures change.

The department has initiated a statewide “Missouri Pothole Patrol,” which is a month-long effort for MoDOT to concentrate on patching potholes and keeping highways smooth and safe for motorists.

“The goal of this effort is to patch potholes as quickly as possible and get us through the transition to warmer weather,” said Elizabeth Wright, MoDOT state maintenance engineer. “MoDOT has dedicated staff and resources to repair minor road damage quickly, but we need the public’s help to spot those potholes and let us know where they are.”

The Missouri Pothole Patrol runs from March 18 through April 14. There are multiple ways for motorists can report potholes:

- MoDOT’s Customer Service Center, at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (888-275-6636)
- Online – from your computer or smartphone, at modot.org. Look for “Report a Road Concern”
- By e-mail: comments@modot.mo.gov

The department strives to keep all state highway property in good condition – whether that means fixing a pothole, repairing guard rail or replacing a damaged sign. MoDOT relies on motorists to help spot these concerns so they can be repaired promptly.

“One of MoDOT’s top priorities is the safety of the traveling public,” said Wright. “We want to encourage our customers to contact us any time they see something of concern.”

The department's rapid response pothole repair is only a temporary fix. Once the weather warms up, the temporary patches will be replaced with permanent repairs.

Potholes form when temperatures warm up during the day but continue to be cold at night. Moisture from winter rain and snow constantly seeps into the cracks and joints of the roadway. When the temperatures drop at night, that water freezes and expands the pavement, which causes it to crack and bulge. As cars and trucks drive over those cracks, the pressure causes chunks of pavement to pop out, and potholes are formed.



Check out a [Missouri Pothole Patrol](#) video on YouTube .



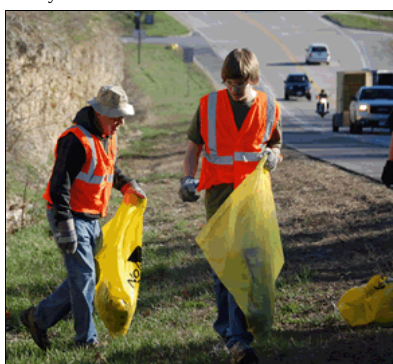
Maintenance Crew Leader Rich Skelton fills a pothole in Columbia.

Missouri Gets 'Spring Cleaning' During No MORE Trash! Bash

Volunteers from across the state will spring into action this April during the No MORE Trash! Bash and help Missouri become a litter-free state.

The No MORE Trash! Bash is an annual event sponsored by the Missouri departments of Conservation and Transportation. During the entire month of April, efforts are aimed at getting people to clean up litter all across Missouri – from roadsides and parks to rivers and streams.

"It's time to get outside, get the litter picked up, and make our state beautiful this spring," said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT roadside management specialist. "The trash bash is a great way to get organized and actually make a difference."



Last year's Bash had hundreds of groups participating with thousands of volunteers. Across the state, over 128,000 bags of litter were collected statewide. Hundreds of educational efforts were held in schools, at rest areas, community events, during Earth Day celebrations, and more.

"Littering isn't just ugly," said Joe Jerek, trash bash coordinator for the Department of Conservation. "It hurts wildlife, costs Missourians millions of tax dollars, and it's illegal."

Birds, fish, turtles, and other animals can get tangled in litter, such as plastic six-pack holders and fishing line, and it can kill them. Litter poisons fish, birds, and other wildlife and can cost a litterer up to \$1,000 in fines and one year in jail.

"We spend millions of dollars every year cleaning up litter on roadsides, conservation areas, and other locations," said Armstrong. "Every discarded bottle or fast food wrapper our volunteers clean up or prevent can save the state money."

To take action and participate in this year's bash, consider scheduling a clean-up or educational activity and involve your friends, family, and coworkers. For more information or to sign up for activities, visit www.nomoretrash.org or call 888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636).

Fast Facts

Did you Know This About MoDOT Bridges?

MoDOT is responsible for thousands of bridges and culverts - 10,405 at last count. Of that number, 53 are considered major river bridges - think of the Christopher S. Bond Bridges in Kansas City and Hermann, The Bill Emerson Bridge in Cape Girardeau and the under-construction Mississippi River Bridge in St. Louis.



If you exclude those 53 large bridges, the average cost of the remaining 10,352 bridges is \$1 million each.

What's Happening



Elizabeth Reed, Senior HR Specialist (left), and Machel Watkins, Transportation Planning Director (right), share their insights on the mentoring relationship in a brief interview.

Mentoring Program Insights

Did you know we have a mentor program available to all employees? The program doesn't exclude anyone, and you don't have to desire a management title to participate.

Mentees choose whomever they wish as their mentors, as long as it's not someone in their supervisory line. They also have the freedom to schedule time with their mentor, which typically is about one hour per month. The only required paperwork is a short application, and there is a mentor program coordinator at your service.

To learn more, read this brief interview of a mentor and mentee, who share their insights on the program – [Interview](#), or visit the website - [Mentor Program](#) (these links work for employees only)



Around the Web

Useful Ideas From Other Agencies

The Missouri Department of Insurance has a new smartphone app that walks drivers through the necessary steps to take if they're in a car accident. The new app helps remove the guesswork and is free for iPhone and Android users.



Scan the QR code to download the [iPhone app](#)



Scan the QR code to download the [Android app](#)



And the Biggest Winner Is....

February's Safety Jackpot winner was intermediate maintenance worker Brian Hortness from Bowling Green. Brian may be just one of several employees who have won the monthly Safety Jackpot grab bag, but he is definitely the richest. Brian won the most cash from any grab bag so far - \$1,000.00!!!! Congratulations Brian.

Wonder who will win this month?

March Retirements

James Cockrell - NE - 33
Dale Niece - NE - 36

Bruce Farris - SW - 7
David Ketchum - SE - 23

Jeffrey Huffman - CO - 29
Constance Brandt - CO - 38

In Memorium

Paul Herzig (active employee)
KC District – February 19
LeAnn Francis (active employee)
CO – February 28
Vince Jobe
CO – February 15
Daniel Carlock
former D1 – February 18
Bobby Letterman
former D8 – February 18

Ben Goodin
CO – February 27
Larry Condron
former D2 – February 27
John Hollon
former D2 – February 28
Clifford Howerton
former D8 – March 2
Charles Daly
former D3 – March 6

Arthur Masterson
former D10 – March 6
John Loyd
former D1 – March 7
Harlan Moffett
CO – March 8
Jack Roberds
CO – March 9
Donnie Henson
former D10 – March 13

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

Central
Office

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Electronic Bidding for Highway Construction

by Bob Brendel



Beginning with the May 2013 letting, MoDOT will require all highway construction project bids be submitted electronically.

“Requiring electronic bids for all projects will continue to increase the efficiency and accuracy of the bidding process for MoDOT and our contracting partners,” said Natalie Roark, bidding and contract services engineer in the Design Division.

MoDOT began optional electronic bidding in January 2007 and transitioned to mandatory electronic bidding for projects exceeding a monetary value of \$250,000 in July 2009. The

last two years, 90 percent of bids that were eligible for paper bids were submitted electronically. MoDOT can still choose to use paper bids for special situations such as emergency projects or other unique projects.

For contractors to submit bids electronically, they need a digital ID established through Bid Express, MoDOT’s electronic bidding provider, and a separate *Request to Submit Bids Electronically* document submitted to MoDOT. Instructions on how to become qualified to bid electronically can be found at MoDOT’s bid opening website - *Electronic Business*. Contractors should keep in mind that it may take up to one week to process a digital ID.

Contractors will continue to have the option to submit a paper bid guaranty (i.e., bid bond, cashier’s check and certified check or annual bid bond) with their bid.

For assistance in setting up an electronic bid account, contact Lisa Mueller at (573) 751-9253 or lisa.mueller@modot.mo.gov. Any additional questions regarding electronic bidding should be directed to Roark at (573) 526-2923 or natalie.roark@modot.mo.gov.

March Safety Tips Tis the Season for Severe Weather

Spring is the season most associated with severe weather (thunderstorms, flooding, and/or tornadoes) although it can occur at any time during the year. The best way to save lives during severe weather is to have a plan and to have a basic knowledge of severe weather.

Warm, humid conditions are the most favorable environment for thunderstorms to form and they typically last an average of 30 minutes. They are preceded by a dark sometimes greenish sky, dark, low-lying clouds and produce periods of heavy rain, strong winds, flash flooding, hail, lightning and thunder.



such as a ditch, and lie flat.

All thunderstorms are dangerous and should be taken seriously. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to a storm to be struck by lightning.

The Difference between a Watch and a Warning
According to the Storm Prediction Center

A **watch** means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop. A tornado watch includes the possibility of multiple tornadoes.

A **warning** is issued when the weather event is happening NOW!

Tips to Stay Safe:

- Avoid traveling if possible. If you are in your car when severe weather strikes, pull over. Do not try to outrun a storm.
- Go indoors if you are outside. If you are outside and no shelter is available, go to a low-lying area,

- If you are indoors, go to the basement or the lowest level of the building away from windows and doors.
- If you are in a mobile home, abandon it in favor of a more substantial structure.
- Remember the "30-30" rule: After seeing lightning outside, go indoors if you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay inside for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder (*information from The Weather Channel*).

It is hard to predict when severe weather will occur, but being prepared when it does occur can help save lives.

The "Ice Aged" Team Takes the Plunge

by Beverly Koetting



Willie Wonka and the Oompa Loompas took one for the cause on a cold and snowy afternoon with a water temperature of 35 degrees, all for the sake of charity.

The annual Polar Bear Plunge was held at the Lake of the Ozarks on February 23. The plungers and their supporters joined forces for the third year in a row to make a generous contribution to Missouri's Special Olympics.

"The Ice Aged" team consisted of Machel Watkins-TP, Brian Reagan-TP, Jay Whaley-TP, Drew Williford-TP, Bev Koetting-TP, Megan Denkler-TP, Anup Choudhury-IS and Dave Sylvester-CD. They, combined with the 5K strut group -(Brian Reagan, Anup Choudhury and Manny Chavez, raised \$2,070.



Top photo from left: back row - Brian Reagan, Jay Whaley, Machel Watkins, Drew Williford, Dave Sylvester, front row - Anup Choudhury and Bev Koetting

Bottom photo from left: Manny Chavez, Brian Reagan and Anup Choudhury

What's Happening at Central Office

100 Year Anniversary

MoDOT has a reason to celebrate: it's our 100th birthday! On March 22, 1913, the General Assembly created the State Highway Department. It is important that we take the time to stop, look at what has been accomplished in the last 100 years, take pride in our contributions, and celebrate a century of moving Missouri forward.

During the next few months, we will remember the past, plan for the future and celebrate the employees of today. We will have a centennial webpage, articles in Connections, a special centennial logo, and some small surprises for everyone to enjoy along the way. First up is a birthday celebration – complete with cake!



Monday, March 25 - 1 p.m.

Hearing Room - Central Office
ISD Conference Room - 830 MoDOT Drive
I-70 Conference Room - Creek Trail Drive



Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 26

9 am - 3 pm
Harry S Truman Building, 4th floor Auditorium

Wednesday, March 27

10 am - 2 pm
In the Conference Room
Missouri Department of Mental Health, 1706 E. Elm

Tuesday, April 2

9 am - 1 pm
Harry S Truman Building, 4th floor Auditorium

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

Northwest
District

[Home](#)

[Central Office](#)

Districts

[Northwest](#)

[Northeast](#)

[Kansas City](#)

[Central](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Southwest](#)

[Southeast](#)

[Archives](#)

[Print Page](#)

[Print
Entire Edition](#)



Northwest Missouri Teens Have TEAM SPIRIT

For the first time in St. Joseph, Northwest high school students learned how Team Spirit could help save lives.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for youth 15 - 24 years of age. In an effort to prevent these deadly crashes, the Northwest Region's Coalition for Roadway Safety presented the 2013 Northwest Regional TEAM SPIRIT Workshop on March 6, at the St. Joseph Civic Arena in St. Joseph, Mo.

The free workshop was open to all high schools in the 20 counties in the Northwest Missouri area, and seven schools attended the event to learn how they could help save lives on our roads.

Only 67 percent of Missouri teens buckle up before heading out on the road and Northwest Missouri has some of the lowest seat belt usage rates among high school drivers across the state.

"We know we lose precious lives to needless crashes in our area because young drivers don't buckle up; they text and drive, drive impaired or do a variety of other unsafe behaviors," said Jackie Spainhower, executive director of the Northwest Region's coalition. "This Team Spirit event is a great way for schools to proactively educate their students and hopefully save lives and prevent injuries - all at no cost to them."



With the help of facilitators, student leaders developed a plan to implement at their school that will improve teen driving habits and reduce deadly crashes.

This one-day training for students and advisors focused on the safety issues facing teens and driving. Dynamic and interactive workshops were presented on safety belt use, drinking and driving, speeding, cell phone use and texting while driving. Additional activities focused on team building skills and action plan development.

Through this training, students were empowered to take a leadership role in making a difference in their schools. While at the training, each school developed an action plan to address what they determine to be the number one traffic crash concern at their school leading to death and injury. Participating schools received grants from the coalition to put their action plans to work.

The participating schools were Chillicothe R-II High School, East Buchanan C-I High School, Maryville R-II High School, North Daviess R-III High School, Southwest Livingston R-I High School, Trenton R-IX High School and Worth County R-III High School.



Students began their day with warm up songs with actions including this one about milk.

Digging into the Past

You won't find Ogle's Mill on a map anymore, but motorists driving on Route 48 in Andrew County pass it every day and don't even realize it.

Because a new bridge is being built near the mill's former location, at Rosendale, Mo., a MoDOT archaeology and survey team began exploring the site on Mon., March 18, for signs of the old mill. Coincidentally, their work was during National Surveyor's Week, March 17-23.

MoDOT is required by the National Historic Preservation Act to consider the impacts any new construction would have on a prehistoric or historic archaeological site.

"Based on historic research and communication with local community members and relatives of former owners of the mill, we believe that portions of the mill still exist," said Brianne Greenwood, MoDOT Intermediate Historic Preservation Specialist.

MoDOT's findings and recommendations for preservation or excavation of the mill will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office to be used by future researchers.

On the first day of the dig, on the very first shot with the auger, the team brought up bricks they believe to be part of the foundation of the old mill building, originally built in 1845. This area is prone to flooding, however, and floods since the mill's closure in 1934 have buried the foundation under 10 1/2 feet of silt. The new bridge and ditches won't impact the mill, but the survey and archaeological team may bring in ground penetrating radar to confirm the findings and to provide further information.

The first bridge over the One Hundred and Two River at this location was a wooden bridge built in 1853 at a cost of \$2,629.50 to the county. Another wooden bridge replaced it around 1871 and a new iron bridge was installed in 1884. The supports for the iron bridge can still be seen on the west bank of the river, south of the existing bridge.

MoDOT will replace the current bridge on Route 48 at Rosendale, which was built in 1930. The new bridge is scheduled for construction in 2014, at an estimated cost of around \$4 million.

"This new bridge will be a major improvement over what drivers in the area have had to drive over for more than 80 years," said Troy Slagle, MoDOT Design Engineer. "But before we begin building the future, we have to honor our past and ensure we are saving what we can."



This photo of the old mill, dam and bridge was found by local researchers in the Andrew County Museum archives.



Intermediate Historic Preservation Specialist Brianne Greenwood and local historians Dawn and Donnie Blair look on as Land Survey Supervisor Wes Wallick digs where the old mill used to be.



A piece of old brick, believed to be from the mill's foundation was found on the team's first dig attempt.

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager
Northwest District
816.387.2481
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

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To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

Northeast
District

[Home](#)

[Central Office](#)

Districts

[Northwest](#)

[Northeast](#)

[Kansas City](#)

[Central](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Southwest](#)

[Southeast](#)

[Archives](#)

[Print Page](#)

[Print
Entire Edition](#)

Media Goes Out on Pothole Patrol

Crews have been busy filling potholes ever since the weather broke, and now, statewide, we are encouraging the public to let us know if there is a pothole on a state highway so we can fill it. To bring awareness to pothole "season," the NE District invited reporters from three local television stations to spend some time actually on pothole patrol. "They loved it and the exposure was terrific... this type of coverage lets the public know we are continually working to maintain our roads," said Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager.

Thank you to the Kirksville, Canton and Palmyra maintenance crews, Tony Morrall, Simon Begley, Jody Geisendorfer, Amy Crawford and Monte Fisher for working with the media and providing good interviews.

You can watch these interviews online at the links below:

KHQA TV (Hannibal/Quincy, IL)
KHQA, KTVO (Kirksville)
KTVO,
WGEM (Hannibal/Quincy, IL)
WGEM

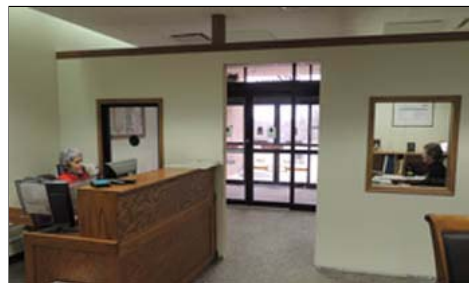


(Above) Kerry Harvey, Kirksville maintenance, shows Justin Andrews, a reporter from KTVO, how to fill a pothole. (Below left) Jody Geisendorfer, explains to KHQA reporter Jim Whitfield and his cameraman how potholes are filled.



Each reporter was given their own personal name tag while on the job (and they got to keep them!)

Around the District...



To improve security and allow extra office space, the customer service center has undergone reconstruction and is almost finished. Todd Roth and Gary Tolivar from general services did the work and are awaiting the security door to finish it up. Customer relations staff will then get to do a little decorating to make the center welcoming. NE Modot staff will have to use their employee card to get in, while visitors will have to be let in by customer service.

Becky Novinger, Shelbina maintenance, explains how the "big yellow truck" works during an event at Shelbina Elementary School. The little man was extremely interested in what Becky had to say!



At any given time, about a dozen roads were flooded last week in northeast Missouri due to the melting of the excessive snow and some additional rain. Route P in Lincoln County, above, is considered a "frequent flood" and was the last road opened this week.

A New Interchange is Major Project



Eight girders were set over the four-lane U.S. 61 in Troy between 9 a.m. and 2 a.m. this week as part of the South Lincoln Drive Interchange project. The next step is to form the deck, using the conventional method as opposed to pre-cast panels.



The South Lincoln Drive interchange in Troy is about 25% complete, and drivers along U.S. 61 are now noticing the interchange taking shape. "This week, girders were set for the overpass, and the contractor will be forming the deck, conventionally, which means we won't be using pre-cast panels," said Rick Domzalski, resident engineer in the Troy Project Office. The eight spans are each 135 foot long and pre-cast panels would have overloaded the girders," he explained. The girders were hung at night because of the large traffic volume. "We have a very small window in which we can close US 61 in this area because of the traffic," said Rick. They were set between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. over two nights.

The interchange will feature three roundabouts, which are new to the Troy area, and one area resident is so excited about the design, he and his group are planning the Troy Roundabout Run. They have created a logo, a Facebook page, and online registration, although the date is still yet to be determined. More information can be found at www.troyroundabout.com or by clicking on their logo at the left.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

[Home](#)

[Central Office](#)

[Districts](#)

[Northwest](#)

[Northeast](#)

[Kansas City](#)

[Central](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Southwest](#)

[Southeast](#)

[Archives](#)

[Print Page](#)

[Print
Entire Edition](#)

Kansas City District

Future of Transportation Discussed at On The Move Listening Sessions

More than 100 Kansas City area residents, community, business and organizational leaders met at three listening sessions March 12-14 to discuss priorities for Missouri's transportation future.

MoDOT's "On the Move" initiative finished its ninth stop in Kansas City Thursday evening as the department continues to gather input for its long-range plan for Missouri transportation.

At each of the three sessions, Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec provided an overview of the elements that make up Missouri's transportation system — including roadways, bridges, rail, aviation, water, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian options — and looked at current funding streams and recently completed projects in the area.



Facilitator Julie Lorenz (podium) shares potential scenarios for listening session attendees to consider as they discuss specific priorities for Missouri's transportation future. The event was hosted by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce March 14 at Union Station. Photo: Jennifer Benefield

Following Niec's presentation, session facilitator Julie Lorenz shared two potential scenarios for attendees to consider as they discussed specific priorities for Missouri's transportation future. From there, meeting attendees participated in facilitated, round table conversations to discuss the priority areas and projects that MoDOT should focus on as it moves forward with its long-term plan.



Listening Session attendees participate in facilitated, round-table conversations to discuss the priority areas and projects that MoDOT should focus on as it moves forward with its long-term plan. Photo: Jennifer Benefield

their economic impact to the state. Lastly, many attendees felt MoDOT should do more to accommodate the aging population and integrate bike and pedestrian safety barriers into all new projects.

"A fully functioning transportation system keeps our state moving," said co-host Dean Kevin Truman of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. "A complete transportation system brings jobs, economic growth and competitiveness. But more importantly — it keeps your family safe."

For more information about MoDOT's On The Move statewide public engagement effort, please visit www.missourionthemove.org.

"Transportation is critically important to the future of our state and your presence here today is a great start down that path," said first session co-host Brenner Holland of Hunt Midwest. "The conversations we have now about the future of transportation in our state will have an impact on our state's ability to compete for many years to come."

Opinions at the three sessions consistently reflected a high demand for more projects to improve public transit and passenger rail infrastructure. While maintaining existing road and bridge networks was a top priority for participants, there was limited interest in upgrading highways to decrease congestion. Many participants felt a better transit network would decrease road congestion, lowering maintenance costs and the need for upgrading roads.

Additional priorities included focusing resources on economic development opportunities brought in by a more robust transit system, with more efficient means of movement and close knit communities. Many felt that future projects should be selected and ranked based on

Four Teams to Vie for Interstate 70 Manchester Bridge Design-Build Project

by Steve Porter

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has qualified four design-build teams from whom it received Statements of Qualification (SOQ) to compete for the contract to construct Interstate 70 Manchester Bridge highway improvements to include replacement of the historic US 40 bridge over the Blue River.

"We are thrilled with the high level of interest from some exceptional companies who want to compete for this project," said I-70 Manchester Bridge Project Director Susan Barry. "We look forward to working with four highly-qualified teams over the next few months as they develop their proposals."

The short-listed teams are as follows:

Team:	Clarkson/HNTB Team
Major Participants:	Clarkson Construction Company (Kansas City, Mo.) HNTB Corporation (Kansas City, Mo.)
Team:	Emery Sapp Team
Major Participants:	Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. (Columbia, Mo.) Parsons Transportation Group (St. Louis, Mo.)
Team:	Kiewit Team
Major Participants:	Kiewit Infrastructure Co. (Lee's Summit, Mo.) HDR Engineering, Inc. (Kansas City, Mo.)
Team:	Walsh Design-Build Team
Major Participants:	Walsh Construction Company (Chicago, Ill.) Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. (Jacksonville, Fla.)

The design-build process will shorten the duration of the project and use innovation to minimize impacts to the traveling public during construction.

The four teams will now start to prepare their plans for how they will approach completion of the project. The contractor team will be selected using a best value process to determine who can best meet or exceed MoDOT's project goals:

Impress our customers through innovative solutions that conveniently and efficiently move drivers through the project during and after construction.

- Construct durable structures that minimize future maintenance impacts
- Balance regional mobility with total project cost to achieve optimal value
- Deliver the project no later than December 15, 2016

The contractor should be selected this summer and major construction could start before the end of this year. The method of construction will keep travelers moving safely and conveniently through the project. It is scheduled to be completed by December 15, 2016.

Additional information is available on the project's webpage: www.modot.org/manchesterbridge.



For more info

Jennifer Benefield
Customer Relations Manager
Kansas City District
816.607.2153
Jennifer.Benefield@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

Central
District

[Home](#)

[Central Office](#)

Districts

[Northwest](#)

[Northeast](#)

[Kansas City](#)

[Central](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Southwest](#)

[Southeast](#)

[Archives](#)

[Print Page](#)

[Print
Entire Edition](#)

Work Under Way on Route 740 in Columbia

Construction of the first diverging diamond interchange in central Missouri at Route 740 (Stadium Boulevard) and Interstate 70 in Columbia began this week. A news briefing was held March 15 to inform the media and the public about the start of construction.

In addition to the new interchange, the project will widen Stadium Boulevard from just north of Interstate 70 to south of Broadway. The work also includes widening Bernadette Drive from Knipp Street to Beverly Drive.

The roadways to be improved not only serve the Columbia Mall, but numerous other shops, restaurants and businesses in the area, as well as a church and school.

"Anyone who travels through this area will tell you it's a busy, busy place," said Mike Schupp, area engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation. "We know this construction will cause some inconvenience to travelers and nearby businesses, but in the end it will help reduce congestion in the area and make driving safer. We're excited to get moving on it."

Emery Sapp and Sons, Inc. of Columbia is the contractor on the \$12.8 million job, which is funded through a cost-share agreement between MoDOT, the City of Columbia and three transportation development districts. Construction is scheduled to be completed in winter of 2014.



Area Engineer Mike Schupp briefs reporters on the new Route 740 (Stadium Boulevard) project now under way in Columbia.

Bridge Blitz!

Central District bridge maintenance crews have been busy working on hot pouring bridge joints as part of the district's Bridge Blitz program. The purpose of sealing bridge joints is to keep water and debris from getting under the approach slab and deck, which can cause problems with other parts of the bridge.

The crews have finished sealing bridges in nine of our 18 counties and are working on the bridges in the remaining counties. In addition to the hot pours, crews are also working to seal, flush and repair bridges as part of the blitz.

The goal is to finish all the bridges in the Central District by the end of April.



Crew workers from the Iberia and Eldon maintenance facilities are shown here hot pouring bridge joints as part of the district's Bridge Blitz.

PrOMo Challenge Winners Announced



A limb saw retrofitted to a backhoe is one of the district's ProMo Challenge winners.

Several Central District employees have been honored through the new Innovations ProMo Challenge for their ideas to make their work more efficient and innovative.

The Innovations ProMo Challenge is a companion program to the Tool and Equipment Challenge. Both challenges will be showcased in April.

The ProMo Challenge highlights the inventive and imaginative ways employees have improved MoDOT and provides an opportunity to compete for recognition and cash reward for innovative solutions. The challenge focuses on improvements to products, projects and processes that help us stay safe, improve the environment and save or better use our resources.

The following six of the 14 district entries will be considered for the statewide challenge.

Nicole Hood and the Design Project Team

The Route 5 Shared Four Lane project was the first of its kind in the state that was designed and constructed on new alignment. The roadway, which has improved safety and traffic flow, cost less to construct than a four-lane divided highway.

Ryan Libbert/Jeff Wisdom

This pair developed a new procedure for signing plans that eliminates unnecessary work and saves time.

Salem Maintenance/Karl Desch/Ron Laney

This team retrofitted a limb saw to a backhoe in hopes of doing away with manually-operated limb saws and allowing access to limbs much higher than hand-held saws.

Don Boettcher

Don created a concrete equipment cleaning method that involves using vinegar to clean the surface of concrete tools and testing equipment.

Chris Riney

Chris developed an Inspection/Testing Responsibilities Guide that serves as a one-stop resource for the different types of material that can be incorporated into a project.

Jason Sommerer

Jason came up with a process and spreadsheet to keep track of past and future pavement treatments for every route in the district. The process includes pavement condition data from TMS to help decide which treatment to apply next to a given route.

Citizens Weigh In on a Wider Route 5

More than 30 people attended a March 6 community briefing to discuss the next phase of widening Route 5 to three lanes through Sunrise Beach. The project, a cooperative effort between MoDOT and the Village of Sunrise Beach, would extend from Singing Oaks Drive to Jet Ski Drive. The project will be awarded in December, with construction expected to take place during the spring and summer of 2014. In the photo at right, Project Manager Bruce Green visits with a local citizen about the project.



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

[Home](#)

[Central Office](#)

[Districts](#)

[Northwest](#)

[Northeast](#)

[Kansas City](#)

[Central](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Southwest](#)

[Southeast](#)

[Archives](#)

[Print Page](#)

[Print
Entire Edition](#)

St. Louis
District

Barrel Bob Rings in St. Patrick's Day

by Kara Price

The Voice of St. Louis group participated in St. Louis' St. Patrick's Day parade during the holiday weekend. Over 60 MoDOT St. Louis employees and their families participated in raising awareness regarding work zone and seatbelt safety. To find out the latest on Barrel Bob's whereabouts, visit [facebook.com/MOBarrelBob](https://www.facebook.com/MOBarrelBob).



Barrel Bob dressed in his St Patrick's Day attire for downtown St. Louis' annual parade.



MoDOT St. Louis employees lead Barrel Bob as they march in the St. Patrick's Day parade to show their support for safety.

St. Louis Kicks Off Pothole Patrol

by Kara Price

MoDOT St. Louis kicked off its second annual "Pothole Patrol" as part of an enhanced statewide initiative to keep highways smooth and safe for Missouri motorists. At a news conference, St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger announced that MoDOT maintenance crews will aggressively respond and patch potholes with asphalt as quickly as possible of it being reported on weekdays.

Ballas maintenance crews repaired potholes on South Woods Mill Road near Route 40 in Town and Country today as one of the first roads to benefit from this improved pothole program. Crews are repairing the potholes on state roads early to get the asphalt mix in while the hole is still small, benefiting both the department and motorists.

To view the St. Louis kickoff, [click here](#) or visit www.youtube.com and type in 2013 Pothole Patrol.

St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger addresses St. Louis media at a news conference to explain the purpose of the statewide Pothole Patrol initiative.



Pictured left to right: Erick Price, Ballas maintenance crew leader, shows a FOX 2 news videographer how MoDOT repairs potholes on South Woods Mill Road near Route 40 as part of the Pothole Patrol.

2013 Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference a Success

by Javal Burton

The St. Louis district recently hosted its regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference to give employees the opportunity to engage in open discussions on topics that impact their perspectives on change and culture. There is a need to shift from awareness to action in bringing about culture change and promoting environments of inclusion. The conference allowed employees to explore the tools and resources to transform diversity awareness into actionable results. The four speakers offered a unique perspective on what it takes to make it on the diversity journey.

"This year's conference was a success in many ways where more than 140 employees were able to take advantage of this great learning opportunity," said Ed Hassinger, MoDOT St. Louis District Engineer. "Many employees walked away with a new perspective on how they view others in a professional environment."

"Diversity is a journey, not a destination, and because the world is always changing, the journey will always continue."



Pictured left to right: Stephen Butler, MoDOT diversity liaison, and Angela Donahue, Hampton Senior construction technician, participated in an exercise at the conference that demonstrates physical features and impacts of change.



Pictured left to right: Ralph Brooks, Normandy maintenance crew leader, and Cheryl Tucker, materials inspector, participated in the same exercise that day.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 7, 2013

Southwest
District

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition



POTHOLE PATROL: Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Charles Wilson (top left photo) fills a pothole on I-44 near Mount Vernon as part of this spring's Missouri Pothole Patrol program. Operating the first of three protection trucks is Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Leilani Stewart. (Photo by LeAnn Blankenship)



SEALING SHOULDERS: The Bolivar and Republic maintenance crews (top right photo) join forces to seal shoulders on Route 13 between Springfield and the Polk-St. Clair county line. Operating the distributor is Republic Senior Maintenance Worker Mike Beck, followed in a pickup by crew leaders Keith Chandler of Republic and Rex Gott of Bolivar and then Bolivar Senior Maintenance Worker Jimmie Chastain in the first of three protection trucks. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION: The "On the Move" Springfield Listening Session March 7 drew 45 participants in a wide-ranging discussion of transportation needs. This group (photo on left) includes representatives of the Springfield Public Schools PTA, Doug Pitt's Care to Learn program, the city of Warsaw, the AARP, Conco Quarries and the NAACP. The Joplin Listening Session March 5 had 28 participants. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

Developing New Hearing Protection Training Nets Safety Manager Statewide Recognition

by Bob Edwards

A new emphasis on hearing protection for current and new MoDOT workers alike, developed by Health and Safety Manager Gary McLarry for use in the Southwest District and adopted statewide, prompted McLarry's nomination for State Employee of the Month for May.

In the nominating statement, Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller said:

"It was no surprise that when MoDOT began putting together a new, comprehensive training program for new employees, Gary saw an opportunity to make the program even better. Gary's research on workplace hearing damage found that MoDOT employees in safety-sensitive jobs are routinely exposed to high decibel, industrial-type operations."

Many of these employees, Mueller wrote, "were handed a set of ear plugs and were told only to read the safety handbook guidelines regarding hearing protection. This may be enough to meet minimum standards, but Gary decided to take hearing protection awareness to the next level for MoDOT employees."

Mueller said McLarry put together "a concise, thorough training program to educate new and existing MoDOT employees on the hazards of noisy work environments. In order to mitigate these hazards, Gary's training provides awareness of the damage these types of environments can cause to the unprotected worker's hearing."



McLarry

The training shows how to evaluate the need to use department-provided hearing protection devices, Mueller said. The training also "graphically instructs the worker on the proper installation of earplugs." In other industries, this step commonly is left up to each employee to figure out on his or her own.

McLarry said the training includes a brief discussion of the potential for hearing loss caused by machinery sounds both at work, with tractor engines and chainsaws and other equipment, and at home, using the same kind of power equipment and items like deer rifles.

The information hit home with many employees, he said, especially after some employees at the training voluntarily discussed their own hearing loss. Those personal stories got people's attention, he said.

The hearing protection training takes 20 minutes to 30 minutes and includes information provided on a PowerPoint presentation put together by Senior Risk Management Technician Jodie Payne. The session also shows employees how to properly put in and take out ear plugs.

"The employees like that it is quick, direct and to the point and there is a hands-on demonstration," McLarry said.

Significant Milestone Reached on I-44 /Range Line Reconstruction

by Angela Eden

Interstate 44 traffic was switched to the new median bridge over Range Line Road in Joplin last week -- a major milestone in a project to replace the deteriorating early 1960s bridges and convert Range Line Road to a Diverging Diamond Interchange.

Progress was slow during December and early January because of winter weather.

"I think we're in good shape," Joplin Resident Engineer Greg Chapman said of the construction schedule for the \$8 million project. Completion is late this year.

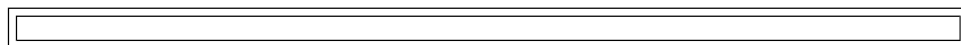
The work will now focus on tearing down the old eastbound I-44 bridge over Range Line Road and building a new one, Chapman said. This phase could take up to four months to complete.

Once the eastbound bridge is built, eastbound I-44 traffic will be shifted to the new eastbound bridge and westbound traffic will be shifted to the median bridge. This will allow contractor crews to replace the existing westbound bridge.

After the bridges are completed, work will shift to Range Line Road where crews will build islands and new permanent ramps. Conversion to the new Diverging Diamond configuration, with new striping and new signs and traffic signals, will take place near the end of the project.

All of this work is happening while traffic maneuvers through the interchange both on I-44 and Range Line Road.

"Traffic has done a really good job" with all the changes, Chapman said.



For more info

Bob Edwards
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Robert.Edwards@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 21, 2013

Southeast
District

[Home](#)

[Central Office](#)

Districts

[Northwest](#)

[Northeast](#)

[Kansas City](#)

[Central](#)

[St. Louis](#)

[Southwest](#)

[Southeast](#)

[Archives](#)

[Print Page](#)

[Print
Entire Edition](#)

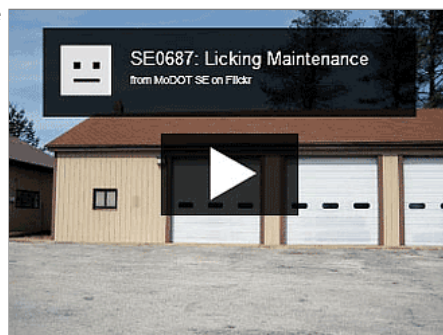
SE District Sells Former Maintenance Sites

This Wednesday officially marked the first day of spring, but the Southeast District's "spring cleaning" was already well underway.

"Throughout the year, the Southeast District 'cleans up' its real estate inventory by marketing parcels no longer needed to build, improve or maintain the state's highway system," said Senior Right of Way Specialist Eric Kaut. "This March, we focused on selling the former maintenance facilities in Portageville and Wasola."

The Realty to Roads team was successful in selling both of the former maintenance sites—benefitting MoDOT as well as taxpayers.

"The funds generated through the sale of the properties will be used for roadway improvements," he said. "In addition, ridding of excess right of way saves maintenance costs and reduces liability."



The former Licking maintenance facility is currently for sale through the Realty to Roads program. For more information, please visit www.modot.org/southeast.

To view parcels currently for sale in the Southeast District, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm

Local High Schools Rewarded for Efforts to Raise Seat Belt Use

After weeks of hard work to raise seat belt use among teens, winning Southeast District schools were recently rewarded for their efforts.

Notre Dame Regional High School won the Southeast District's award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use, achieving 99.76 percent seat belt use. South Pemiscot High School won the Southeast District's award for the Most Improved Seat Belt Use, increasing their seat belt use from 43.51 percent to 99.42 percent. In addition, Couch High School received the first place award for the statewide, 30-second video competition. The three schools received \$500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for future seat belt educational programs at the schools.



Notre Dame Regional High School won the Southeast District's award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use, achieving 99.76 percent seat belt use. To view additional photos of the winning schools, please visit www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/.

Four Southeast Missouri schools received statewide recognition for seat belt use that reached gold (99-100 percent) or silver (95-98 percent) and received banners to display by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians. Those schools included:

- Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau-Gold
- Saxony Lutheran High School, Jackson-Gold
- Richland High, Essex-Silver
- South Pemiscot High School, Steele-Silver

To learn more about the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety, please visit www.savemolives.com/southeast.

Commission Awards Cape Girardeau Roundabout Project

On March 6, a \$1,465,295 contract was awarded to Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Route W, Lexington Avenue and Kingsway Drive.

In addition, the project will include increasing capacity and traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Kingshighway and Mount Auburn Road. The signal improvements will include adding dual left turn lanes from Mount Auburn to Kingshighway, from Kingshighway to Lexington and



from Lexington to Kingshighway. A dedicated right turn lane will also be added from Kingshighway to Lexington.

To learn more about navigating the roundabout, please visit http://youtu.be/46e41y_r42Y.

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

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